

9 MAY 1973



Repression

'NCLC': Ruthless attack from the racist Right Wing

By DONNA RISTORUCCI

It would be a serious mistake to consider the ruthless, violent attacks by the so-called "National Caucus of Labor Committees" against the Communist Party Young Workers Liberation League and against groups and events associated with these two organizations as stemming from "political differences on the left."

The "NCLC" has pledged to carry out "the most ruthless mopping-up operation" against the Communist Party and "do exactly what is necessary... to destroy it" in a month's time.

To accept "NCLC's" campaign as merely a dispute on the left endangers the entire movement because it enables people to dismiss this fascistic campaign as "left factionalism" etc. and therefore not of concern to others outside the so-called feuding factions.

At a recent meeting of the Young Workers Liberation League Central Committee Jarvis Tyner, YWLL National Chairman, described the "NCLC" as "the breath of fascism under revolutionary phrases" and "incipient fascists wrapped in a revolutionary garb."

He stressed that "NCLC's" actions are not part of a debate on the left, but an attempt, in conjunction with monopoly capital's intensified repression, to destroy the people's movement, first by destroying the first line of defense of

democracy, the Communist Party.

What has NCLC's campaign consisted of? Their activities have included:

- Intimidation and outright disruption of meetings of District 65, the Center for Marxist Education, the Harlem Institute for Marxist Studies, New York Committee for Trade Union Action and Democracy, a Harlem meat boycott group, peace coalition meetings and others;

- Systematic splitting and dismantling of the National Welfare Rights Organization;

- Physical assaults with chains, lead pipes, numchucks, and other weapons on meetings in which Communists as well as others were participating in Philadelphia, Buffalo and New York City. These assaults sent a number of people to the hospital.

- Attempt on the life of Rasheed Storey, New York State Communist Party Chairman, at a Columbia University meeting attended by 300 people. The meeting was called to hear New York mayoral candidates.

- Harassment of CP and YWLL members. This includes sending them copies of the "NCLC" newspaper, "New Solidarity," and press releases which threaten the extermination of the CP and YWLL and their supporters. Recently a number of "NCLCers" tried to invade

the home of a Philadelphia YWLL member.

- Distribution of "New Solidarity" and other literature of a threatening and slanderous anti-CP nature at shops where there are regular Daily World distributions and where CP and YWLL members work.

The "NCLC" was expelled as a caucus from the Students for a Democratic Society for supporting the 1968 teachers' strike against the Black community. That strike was led by Albert Shanker, president of the United Federation of Teachers, whom the "NCLC" still supports.

Since then "NCLC" has consistently exposed its own racism by organizing against anti-racist demands such as special job training and hiring programs for Black youth, special college admissions programs for Black youth and similar demands aimed at compensating for hundreds of years of racial discrimination.

"NCLC" has called Black welfare mothers "hogs," "cows" and "prostitutes." It has called Black and Spanish CP and YWLL leaders "gutless," and "moral cowards," and has sided with Anthony Imperiale against integrated housing in Newark. And many other racist activities could be cited.

Tyner pointed out that "NCLC's" campaign of violence and intimidation

represents a shift from its early stress on splitting and disruption through debate to "an open fascist program."

"They have always been anti-everybody," he said, "now they are violent."

"NCLC" is clearly connected with the right-wing.

Some of "NCLC's" leaders and members have already been revealed to be a probation officer (with a license to carry a gun), a former Marine intelligence officer in Vietnam, a former member of the Black Panther Party expelled as a police informer, the sons and daughter of extremely wealthy monopoly capitalists and others.

Their main ideologist, Lyn Marcus (pseudonym) reportedly teaches at Columbia University under the guidance of Zbigniew Brzezinski, former intelligence agent for the U.S. State Department and "specialist in Eastern European and Communist affairs."

There is also evidence that the "NCLC" is connected with Jay Lovestone, the infamous ex-Communist labor leader turned CIA agent specializing in international labor affairs. This would explain NCLC's support for the most reactionary, corrupt, racist labor leaders and their policies and their repeated attacks on progressive leaders and rank and file organizations, particularly Black caucuses.

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GABRIEL

NCLC: 'fascist under figleaf'

NEW YORK—The campaign of open violence that the National Caucus of Labor Committees has initiated against the Communist party and the Young Worker's Liberation League and other organizations is resulting in the isolation of NCLC within the left and growing awareness of its basically fascist character.

A statement April 23 by the Political Committee of the CP branding the NCLC as "a fascist terrorist organization parading under a left figleaf, no more serious than Hitler's 'National Socialist Worker's party,'" was shown to be no mere phrase when a racist and reactionary group tried to smear a rank-and-file trade unionist using NCLC material.

Bill Scott is running for shop steward at the General Motors plant in Tarrytown, New York.

A so-called "UAW Committee to Stop Communism" has distributed a leaflet to members of United Auto Workers Local 664 reprinting an article from NCLC's newspaper "New Solidarity." The article calls Scott a "300-pound CP hack" and refers to him as "snorting," "drooling" and "hog-like."

TYPICALLY PINK

It also uses stoolpigeon testimony before the House Internal Security Committee, and is the kind of leaflet company links usually put out before a union election.

NCLC goons have shown up in several places throughout the east coast to disrupt Communist and YWLL meetings as well as to break up meetings of mass organizations demanding they reject "Communist influence."

In response to the NCLC threat, the movement has been uniting. After NCLC thugs attacked a mayoralty candidates' meeting at Columbia University in New York at which a Communist spoke, a spectrum of individuals and organizations repudiated NCLC's right to function on the campus. Signers of a protest statement ranged from Columbia Spectator editor Gail Robinson to Aura Rivera of the Latin American Student Organization.

NCLC thugs have also interrupted lectures, in-

cluding one at Rutgers University by Communist economist Victor Perlo, and have attempted to close CP bookstores.

Such radical organs as the Guardian have come out in print with strong attacks. "This series of unconscionable physical attacks on the Communist party represents the most bankrupt kind of 'left' politics imaginable." The Trotskyist Socialist Workers Party has also opposed NCLC tactics.

It is in the interest of the left to condemn the NCLC's brutality, according to the CP political committee:

"Starting with the Communists, the NCLC aims at all progressive movements, as did the Hitler Brown Shirts.

"The NCLC is strongly racist. Their main targets and victims have been blacks, Communist and non-Communist. They organized a split in the ranks of the black-led National Welfare Rights Organization and conducted a program of vicious slander against the outstanding black leader Paul Robeson on the occasion of his 75th birthday.

GOON LIST

"Leading NCLC personnel and activists in beatings include:

"Daniel Valdez, a Pennsylvania parole officer, who carried a loaded revolver into an attack on the Philadelphia YWLL. He has been arrested but released on instructions of his superior police officer.

"Jose Torres of the Philadelphia gang is a former intelligence officer of the U.S. armed forces in Vietnam.

"Zeke Boyd, another participant in the goon attack in Philadelphia, was expelled from the Black Panther party in Baltimore as a police informer.

"Lynn Marcus, a leading national theoretician, has been reported as teaching at the International Affairs Institute of Columbia, which has been exposed as funded by the CIA.

"Following the tactic of Joseph McCarthy, HUAC and SACE, they have labelled a whole series of peace

and trade union organizations as "Communist fronts" and subject to their attacks.

"At the very moment when this hoodlum outfit makes our Communist party the special target, there are an ever growing number of workers, black and white, Chicanos, Puerto Rican and Indian, the youth and the women, working people in ever walk of life—who are expressing a new interest in the Communist party. The challenge is to build the Communist party in the fight against inflation, unemployment and poverty in the course of the struggle against U.S. imperialism and racism, for peace, freedom, national liberation and democracy—and for socialism."

Another point was also made by Communist leader Franklin Alexander. Alexander played a key role in building the mass defense organization that was so effective in winning freedom for Angela Davis and which forms the base of support for defending all political prisoners. He was co-chairman of the National United Committee to Free Angela Davis and all Political Prisoners, and is a member of the National Council of the CP.

WRONG TARGET

In a statement to the PW, Alexander pointed out that the NCLC attacks are only the culmination of a political line that seeks to attack the CP as a major ingredient of "building the left."

"All those who have, in this critical period, focused their political energies on attacking the Communists rather than Richard Nixon and his henchmen who now stand so nakedly exposed as the source of violence, should wonder if they have not even unconsciously aided in setting the stage for attacks such as these by the NCLC.

"There exist genuine differences within the left, but all left groups must remember that the main enemy is never another left political organization but the ruling class which feeds on exploitation, national oppression and divisions in the working class and progressive movements."

NCLC goon attacks continue

The National Caucus of Labor Committees (NCLC) has increased its physical attacks against the Communist party. The neo-Trotskyist group also threatened the Socialist Worker's party and beat up a member of the Attica Brigade, an East Coast anti-imperialist student group.

The NCLC disrupted CP meetings and bookstores in Buffalo, N.Y., Baltimore, Md. and Newark, N.J.; beat up a Young Workers Liberation League member, Mike Massio in Philadelphia and plastered threatening signs on the walls of the SWP bookstore in Chicago.

NCLC has declared its intention to destroy the Communist party in "six to eight weeks." "The death of the CPUSA is a necessary thing but a sad thing," the NCLC declared in an April editorial in its newspaper New Solidarity. "Immediately," it said, "readers will obtain a taste of our ruthlessness in the way we proceed to finish off the CP. . . . We have an exact tactical plan for this mopping-up operation."

The "plan" includes entering meetings where CP members are present, demanding that those

present denounce the CP and then beating up people with sticks, pipes, clubs and numchuks, which are two blocks of wood held together with a chain. At Temple University in Philadelphia, Attica Brigade member Dave Haugaard was beaten up when he asked for a copy of the NCLC paper and then tore it up.

In Buffalo, white NCLC thugs charged into a meeting at the office of the NAACP April 19, and mauled some of those present. Young Workers Liberation League leader Matty Berkelhammer said several people were sent to the hospital, including one with two broken legs. At Rutgers University in New Brunswick, on the same day NCLC goons charged into a classroom where CP economist Victor Perlo was speaking. A security force supported by the audience forced the goons to leave. CP and SWP bookstores in Newark and Chicago were vandalized during the same week. Copies of New Solidarity were plastered on the walls.

SWP member Ilona Gersh told the Militant, the SWP newspaper: "The elevator and the door to our hall were plastered with copies of New

Solidarity and the main door to the hall was covered with slogans in spray paint—swastikas, 'Punks of the world unite,' 'Comms go home,' 'KKK'—as well as obscene and sexist remarks. It looked like something that right-wingers or cops would do."

An SWP spokeswoman told the Guardian that in Detroit an SWP sympathizer saw several people enter a bar, distribute New Solidarity and ask those inside: "Who wants to join us in getting the Comms?" "This seems to be proof that if the NCLC doesn't have cops as members, they recruit right-wingers," she said.

Reached by telephone, an NCLC member said he knew nothing about his group's use of right-wing epithets. "I don't know what you're talking about," he said.

In the meantime, most groups on the left have continued to hold their public meetings as usual, taking extra security precautions. A national meeting of the People's Coalition for Peace and Justice (PCPJ) issued a statement condemning the attacks. "If the NCLC is not taking subsidies from the Nixon administration," the statement said, "it is depriving itself of well-earned funds. The NCLC objective is nothing less than the destruction of every left and movement organization in the U.S."

Peace group assails brutal attacks of NCLC

PITTSBURGH, May 1—At the weekend national conference of the Peoples Coalition for Peace and Justice the following statement on the terror tactics of the National Caucus of Labor Committees was unanimously adopted.

During the past several weeks the National Caucus of Labor Committees has carried out a series of brutal attacks on meetings and groups with Communist Party and Young Workers Liberation League participation. Their newspaper, "New Solidarity," (April 9th) announced their intention to "finish the Communist Party" in six to eight weeks.

On April 11th in Philadelphia, an NCLC gang attacked YWLL members on the Temple University campus with sticks and lead pipes; six YWLL members required hospital treatment. Other attacks have occurred in Buffalo, N.Y., at the NAACP office, and in New York City, including an attempted assault on Rasheed Storey, Communist candidate for Mayor, on April 23rd at Columbia University.

While the NCLC claims to be a leftist organization, their attacks, verbal and/or physical, have been against groups on the left; National Welfare Rights Organization, the "Guardian," the Communist Party, Vietnam Veterans Against the War, Black Economic Development Conference, etc. Their present tactics are reminiscent of those employed in the Dominican Republic, Guatemala and Uruguay by CIA-sponsored vigilante groups which include off-duty police. One of those arrested for assaulting the YWLL members in Philadelphia was a parole officer with a .38 revolver who was released from jail after the intercession of his superior.

If the NCLC is not taking subsidies from the Nixon Administration, it is depriving itself of well-earned funds. The NCLC objective is nothing less than the destruction of every left and movement organization in the United States.

We, therefore,

1) Condemn the violent attacks of the NCLC and urge all other groups to do so.

2) Urge that every effort be made to isolate the NCLC and all its members.

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New Left

Daily Worker
4/24/73